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## The Bridge

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# *The Bridge*

Tomaszewski: The Bridge [Bob Tomaszewski]

A bridge is not complete until the two sides meet  
Until they agree that neither side will collapse  
Until it is agreed that they will work together  
And that each side is just a broken bridge without the other.  
Their supports support each other.  
They will not give into the sweeping water below.  
Only erosion or the end of the earth will prevent this bridge from  
keeping its promise and upholding its worth.  
At first it seemed an easy task  
And both sides were sure it would last  
Further on there were difficulties, small disputes but they took  
their toll.  
The two sides of the bridge both sagged a little  
The first noticeable damage was 120 years after construction.  
Everyone's happy that the bridge serves its function.  
But under the bridge were signs of stress and strain.  
It was difficult work, one with uncertain gain.  
If bridges could this one would have perspired.  
It was still manageable but both sides were tired.  
It was the 180 year anniversary when the earthquake shook and  
took advantage of the weakening bridge and both sides fell. And  
the bridge was broken.  
Many tried to blame it on construction  
But it was well constructed just poorly maintained  
Resulting in damage that would take years to be erased  
Reconstruction would be difficult but it had to be done  
The people needed a bridge after the earthquake had won.  
So they rebuilt the bridge from the remains of the old  
And reinforced it to prevent the wear and tear of the cold  
And if there is another earthquake  
The people prepared for that so the bridge won't even shake.

